1841
Introduction
By
Father
William

PAPERS
OF
SHAKERS

81

NEW YORK
New Lebanon

New Lebanon Sunday morn.; 8 o'clk May 18th 1845.

Introduction by Father William.

O ye holy anointed of God upon earth! says Father William, I have come with a short Roll, from the Lord God of Heaven and earth; wherein is contained His decisive and finishing word, respecting the use of strong drink of any kind, among His people; also respecting the use of swine's flesh, and the fat thereof, and the use of tobacco.

Thus saith the Lord God, who ever ruleth all things, and hath, in these last days, condescended to notice His chosen few on earth, with His own words, with His own laws, and with His own orders. And they that receive them thankfully, into willing and obedient hearts, and murmur not, but rejoice in their souls, that I have counted them worthy to deny themselves, that they may draw near to me, shall never lack for my protection and blessings their time, when my judgments are rolling thro' the land; and in eternity it shall be well with them.

But those who hang back, murmur and complain, because of my word, and judge the work of my hand and the word of my mouth, and the means by which I

have sent it unto them, saith the God of Heaven, their carcases shall surely fall and perish in the wilderness of doubts and unbelief; and their souls shall never enter the promised-land, where my chosen few and faithful people dwell; for the mouth of the Lord your God hath spoken it. And if ye believe there is a God, believe there is a God in Heaven, then believe ye this my word.

Declaration of the Almighty

I am the Holy One!

And this my Commandment do I send forth from my Holy Throne, which is, and forever shall be my Law and Statute from this time henceforth, throughout all generations. And mark ye the day of this date, saith the Lord God, that I send forth my Decree, by my faithful servant William.

Altho' the Rod which I have given him is short; yet it will weigh like mountains of lead, in the hearts of many who are among my people, O ye lovely Anointed. But heavy as this may be, it is my Will, saith the Holy One,

that with your approval and sanction, this my Decree remain unaltered.

For I have purposed from the beginning of this late manifestation of mine, that your blessed Mother Anne, and those with her, to their children on earth, that before my work, the immediate work of my Almighty hand should close, I would finish my word to the people, to whom I did begin to speak, in the holy Laws to the Zion of my witness upon earth, and for which in its fulness, I had not them prepared my people to receive.

But now my own time has come, wherein they must receive, or wither and die, as the consequence of a refusal, or of a murmuring and grumbling spirit.

Chapter II.

Concerning strong and intoxicating Drinks.

1. Thus saith the God of Heaven. From all intoxicating drinks, I do command my people to refrain. Touch not, taste not, smell ye not after it. But let pure and wholesome water and that which is as simple, be your constant drink.

2. No longer suffer any one, saith the Lord God, let his or her place and calling be what it may, to use any kind of substitutes for stimulating the spirits in the line of spirituous liquors. And whatever is needed as medicine, that has spirits in it must be given by the physicians. In so doing, my blessing and protection shall be found in this respect.

3. Such of my people as may be called to travel upon the road, and do business among the wicked, in such parts of the country as where good water cannot be obtained, may drink, if they have a desire, one quart of cider; or in lieu thereof, if they choose, one quart of beer or four common glasses in a day. And this they must not exceed, on pain of forfeiting my protection and blessing, saith the Lord; but they may come as much short of this as they may desire, and my blessing shall be increased upon them.

4. And if they should ever have occasion to use a little wine, in consequence of not being able to get other drink, which is allowed by me, saith the Lord, they must set down the number of times they have drank it; and show their account to their Elders, on their return.

5. And those who travel journeys, should take regularly, and at proper times two meals a day. This wisdom requires for the health of their bodies; and of this they

must always partake with prayerful hearts to me, saith the Lord, that their bodies and their souls may be protected with health and strength until they again return to Zion.

6. Remember, ye people of Zion, that this is my perpetual statute, and a decree which my own mouth hath pronounced, saith the God of Heaven; and no excuse to depart therefrom, shall in any way be given.

Chapter III.

My Decree and Statute, saith the Holy One, respecting the use of Swine's flesh and the Fat thereof, among my People on Earth.

1 It is the decree of your God in Heaven, as He hath mentioned in His Laws, that His people shall, in no way, use swine's flesh or fat for food, among themselves, more than one half of what they had formerly been accustomed to use. And they that will not come to this, from this time henceforth, cannot inherit my blessing and protection.

2. For strict obedience to my commands, in all things I do require; for they are right, reasonable and just, and are given to bring about, and effect that work, which

I do intend shall be effected in my Zion, or I will surely visit the inhabitants thereof, with my judgments and sore displeasure, saith the Almighty power of Heaven and earth.

3. And unto all you who are called to oversee and provide in a temporal sense, for my peculiar people, on the earth, see that ye do it according to my commands, and not press them over lightly; for all such as do this, will surely with my judgments, be pressed over heavily: and no hand, save the hand of their God, can help them.

4. And again I repeat it to the inhabitants of my Zion; there is no time for souls to slumber and sleep in this day. And I give no time for souls to plead for indulgence to a carnal appetite, neither in eating nor drinking.

5. But listen give ear, O ye people of Zion and understand my word, saith the Living God. Let none in Zion ever open their mouthes to plead for their own ways, or their own appetites, in respect to these things; for cursed shall he be in my sight who runneth in his own way, and adhereth to his own plans, crying out, I have no faith in this or that. These things never came from God: they are the inventions of man and of women.

6. For I say unto you, All Power in Heaven and earth is mine, and my judgments shall begin at the threshhold of my Zion, in my chosen sanctuary: and they who disregard my word and plead for indulgence to their own propensities shall be the

awful subjects of them.

7 Again do I, your Lord and God, repeat my statute unto you: All ye that are my Zion on earth, learn yourselves to subsist mostly upon my vegetable kingdom, and teach those who come after you to do the same. Eat no animal's flesh oftener than once in twenty four hours, nor flesh of any kind oftener than twice a day.

8 And unto all such as dwell among my people, whose duty it is to slaughter flesh for food: I say unto you take the life of every creature with the least possible pain. Far better would it be for you never to taste of flesh, than to exercise wanton cruelty in taking the life of any creature, let them be never so small. For every such act of wanton cruelty upon that which has animal life, has every soul yet to suffer fourfold in the days of eternity, saith the Holy and Just One.

9 Bow down, ye high and lofty ones that still stand in my Zion on the earth; and all ye that join hand in hand, to administer weakness instead of strength, with blasphemy deceit and lies.

10 Watch ye your days, as they come in, and as they go out; for darkness and judgment are in your skirts; and the blood of the Ja jain si ne ka ren crieth unto me, and I will avenge it, in justice and in judgment upon the offender, saith the God of Heaven, and my days of forbearance shall not be prolonged:

but my judgements and desolation shall be heaviest.

11. For I am wearied with a deceitful heart and lying tongue; and none shall appease my anger. But the righteous true and just shall save their own souls; and the rest will I destroy with sore destruction and misery.

12. O ye that have with Bè es tè, vàe lar ea lon, bem dè fu li fi lee, and sè era vas. Their awful rearing for a long time; hath reached my throne, saith the God of -- Heaven; and my judgements shall go forth upon them. I will not stack my hand; neither will I pass them lightly over.

Chapter IIIII.

My Decree and Statute, saith the God of Heaven, respecting the use of Tobacco among my people, from this date henceforth.

1. My commandment is, that all the inhabitants of Zion, from this time henceforth, cease from the practice and habit of using tobacco, and teach those that come after them to do the same. But if there be any individual cases, that the physicians really think a little tobacco to be used as a medicine would be profitable, it may be freely done

2. And let none say, The Lord hath not done this: For I am the Lord your God, who watch all your outgoings and incomings, even to the lifting of your shoe-latchets: and all your hours of pain and pleasure do I behold, and clearly view every step you take up to obey my word.

3 Have not your parents taught you from the beginning, that I was a God of truth, and justice, and would plainly mark the way wherein my people should walk, and set the bounds that they might not pass over to their own hurt?

5 Yea saith the Lord this, I have promised from the beginning; and this I will fulfill unto the end. And they that believe and keep my commandments, the same shall be accepted of me, and daily share of my protection and blessing.

6. Thus saith the Lord God, I have now given you my commandment — respecting the three points herein mentioned, that my work might not close, and my commandment not be known respecting these things.

7. The time has never come, since the Second Appearance of Christ in your blessed Mother until now, for these things to be fully made known, and for my decree and statute to go forth respecting them.

8. But these, I have now sent forth saith the Lord by the hand of my

servant, William, to establish in union with my Anointed on earth; for a perpetual statute and law, for the inhabitants of my Zion, from this time henceforth, even forever: unless repealed by the same power of my Almighty Hand, saith God.

End of the Roll.

Chapter IV.

Father William's Address.

1 O ye holy Anointed of God, says Father William, this short but weighty Roll did I receive from the hands of God my Heavenly Father, saying take this Roll, my son William, and go to the earth, and take unto thyself an instrument, and cause this my word, my decree and command, to be correctly written, that my holy Anointed may behold and view it, and by their wisdom, cause it to be established throout my Zion, for a perpetual statute, and a decree that altereth not; but by the same hand which gave it.

2. And let this be recorded among their most sacred laws and statutes, which I have given them, and there sacredly kept, from generation to generation, as

a memorial of my Divine Wisdom in establishing this my commencement among my people.

3 Tell my holy Anointed that it is my will, with their union and approbation, that this be read twice in each year, until the year 1848: and then as often as may be found necessary: that all who flock to Zion, may understand this which my mouth hath decreed.

4. Beloved Ministry and Elders says Father William, God your Heavenly Father does now call for a band of volunteers, free volunteers, such as will lay hold of the gospel plow, with both hands, and enter the field of labor, without complaining or grumbling.

5 Such as are willing and thankful to bid an everlasting farewell and final adieu, according to the letter and spirit of what is herein contained. Such as will do this, without saying, Our first Parents allowed the use of these things, and I don't see why we must be deprived of them now, any more than they were.

6 Truly we did allow of them, says Father William: for God did allow of them, and has allowed of them until the present day. But did we not tell you, dear children when we were upon earth, that God's work would increase in order and beauty, from one degree to another, until Zion should travel to

the height of her glory upon earth? This, many of you, now living, can remember, says Father.

7. God does His work, in His own proper times and seasons: and I most solemnly warn every soul says Father, to beware how they murmur and complain, because this His commandment has not been given before, or because He hath now seen fit to establish it unalterably.

8 But remember, the soul that is wise, will always be ready to receive and obey, whenever God shall see fit to give his commandment, and establish His law.

9 And to every free hearted and voluntary soul, who can come forward with a pleasant countenance, and cheerful heart, and sign this covenant of an everlasting farewell, according to the statement in the foregoing pages, I have the love of God, and their blessed Mother Ann for them.

10 And when they shall sign their names, freely and voluntarily, to keep secredly, and teach those who may come after them, to keep secredly, all that is contained in the foregoing pages, I will place this love upon their heads, says Father William, never more to depart, while they remain true to their pledge.

11 And now into your hands, O beloved Ministry! do I submit this short but weighty Roll, with my everlasting love and blessing.
12 Father says that every one that signs this book, must do it of their own free will and choice; and let none ever be heard to say, that they did it, because the rest did: for that will be mockery in the sight of God!
13 But beloved says Father, if there are any of our children that feel at heart, as tho' they could not come to what your Heavenly Father does here require, I say, mark that souls prosperity, from this time henceforth, and ye will be able to see, clearly, who they are that come up to the help of the Lord, in spirit and in truth; and who they are that report unfavorably to his cause, and administer weakness to their fellow brethren: for the one shall flourish and grow, and the other shall dwindle and die.
14. No age nor class, in the Zion of God, are prohibited from signing this Book, if they really at heart do count it a privilege. If there are any that cannot quench their thirst with pure and wholesome water, milk and water, or sweetened water, their appetites are depraved, and their thirst is that which God, and their Heavenly Parents can never again from this time henceforth, own, says Father William.

15. Your heavenly Parents, beloved Ministry, bow low in thanks to God, their Heavenly Father, that He, in His own wisdom does now see fit, wholly to release the inhabitants of His Zion, from under that yoke of bondage and servitude, under which they have for so many years been groaning.

16 I wish, says Father William, all to understand, that this permission which God has given, respecting the use of swine's flesh, with the fat thereof, and the fat of other fed beasts is only a permission, until His Almighty power, thro' the order of His holy Anointed on earth, shall see fit to establish a further restriction

17. And His blessing and health to your bodies, and protection to your souls, will be in proportion to your exact obedience, says Father William. And I call upon all of you, my dear children, to prepare yourselves in readiness to receive, (whenever the holy Anointed on earth shall in their wisdom, see fit to hand it forth,) the word and will of your Heavenly Father, respecting the use of animal food in the Zion of His likeness upon earth.

18. There may always be as many swine kept as are necessary, for the purpose of prudently saving the slops from your kitchens. And if you do not want their meat, it can be sold to the children of this world.

19. Let all Zion's children understand, says Father, that it is the will of God, and His command, that they should cease from buying — such things for their own consumption, which may as well be raised upon their own plantations; such as tea and coffee; but let all who have a desire to use drinks of this kind, with their victuals, habituate themselves to use such things as they can raise upon their own soil. This will be much more agreeable to the order of their protection and blessing in all things.

20. Beloved Ministry and Elders says Father William, we now submit all these things for you to try upon that Altar of Wisdom that God hath given you, before you read it in the ears of the people: for wisdom is yours to exercise in the fear of God.

Names of the Brethren now residing in the Upper Canada Province June 3rd 1842

Daniel Sizer	David Turnbull
Levi Shaw	Andrew J Vincent
Josiah Wining	James Wilson
John Sidle	David H Fraser
Thomas Tyler	John Gottlieb Schernberg
Aaron Bill	Francis Chase
Eyles Hollister	Edward Chase
Ge: Hodgson	Ezra S Wickham

Walter Dyer

Robert C Bruce

William Tobias

Henry Tobias

Joseph Duglass

Alonzo Wing

1842 June 8

Names of the Sisters now residing in the Upper Family Canaan

Hannah Bryant	Mary Smith
Mary Dixon	Anny Mc Louth
Esther Tyler	Caroline Wesser
Dolly De Witt	Lydia Douglass
Margaretta Lamoreaux	Amanda A Fraser
Hannah Wilson	Caroline Wood
Rhoda Holister	Olive Holden

Esther M Wood

Corinthia C Brown

Josephine J Chapman

Eliza Brown

Mary Ann Hull

Lucinda M Reynolds